

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2010; 4:30p.m.
Council Chambers**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Ian Kohen	Akua B. Agyei
Trena Carter	Rosalind Pegram
Greg Lewis	Gil Palmer
John Roberts	John Stroh
Shiva Rallapalli	
Tony McClendon	

The meeting was started as unofficial as a quorum was not present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sylvia Babcock, Xochitl Rizo, Sergio Gonzalez and multiple members of District 6 We Have a Dream group and supporters.

DISCUSSION:

Director Tinsley briefed Commissioners on the 2010 Goals and Objectives. She advised that the goals were similar to 2009 with an increased focus on the implementation of the Six Sigma strategies.

The Director continued and informed Commissioners of the need to appoint a Commissioner liaison to represent the commission with CAMEO.

Meeting Called to Order

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll.

ACTION ITEM – Update on CAMEO Liaison Selection:

Deputy Director Smith provided Commissioners with an update on recent CAMEO activities involving the 'Journey in Film' series that CAMEO is co-sponsoring with the International School of Columbus. The Deputy Director and Director provided additional information about the film, Beat the Drum, the interest it has generated in the community and future films planned for the series. Discussion ensued.

After discussing the appointment of the liaison to CAMEO, Director Tinsley requested Commissioner input. Commissioner Carter recommended that the CAMEO Liaison appointment first be offered to Commissioner Agyei as the former liaison to the Mayor's Multicultural Awareness Committee. As there was general agreement with Commissioner's present, Director Tinsley asked for other Commissioners that were interested in the liaison

position if Commissioner Agyei was not available. Both Commissioner's Rallapalli and Lewis voiced their interest.

ACTION ITEM – 2010 Commission Goals & Objectives:

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the 2010 Goals and Objectives. Commissioner Carter Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Unofficial Meeting

OTHER BUSINESS – District 6 We Have a Dream Presentation:

Director Tinsley introduced Sylvia Babcock, coordinator for the District 6 – We Have A Dream group. Ms. Babcock provided Commissioners with background information about the committee that it is 1 of 9 Indiana groups collectively working on the Dream Act and spreading awareness of what the Dream Act is.

Ms. Babcock introduced District 6 members, Ms. Xochitl Rizo and Mr. Sergio Gonzalez who provided a presentation explaining what the Dream Act is and the criteria required to participate. The goal of participants is to achieve the dream status, permanent legalized residency in the United States. Miss Rizo defined the acronym (DREAM). **D**evelopment **R**elief and **E**ducation for **A**lien **M**inorites. Mr. Gonzalez continued the presentation by highlighting the criteria qualifications to be eligible for participation.

Ms. Babcock informed Commissioners that their group is seeking the support of the Commissioners individually or as an organization to write letters and/or a resolution to legislators in support of the Dream Act. Discussion ensued.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley thanked the presenters and guests. She then went on to briefly provide a case update. She informed Commissioners of two ongoing complaint investigations that Chairperson Palmer had signed subpoenas for the investigations to continue. The Director continued and informed Commissioners of the Mayor's upcoming State of the City address scheduled for February 2, 2010, and invited them to attend.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No Report.

OTHER BUSINESS –CAMEO UPDATE:

Deputy Director Smith reported on CAMEO activities, advising Commissioners that attendance by individuals and company representatives attending the meetings continues to increase. She continued by summarizing the recent board retreat that was utilized to lay out a road map for future CAMEO action. The Deputy Director reported that there is a lot of support from the community for the group with the goal being for CAMEO to virtually operate on its own.

Deputy Director Smith announced that the Columbus Area Arts Council (CAAC) is preparing to award CAMEO a grant for 2010 and 2011 film series. She announced the next Journey in Film Series movie, "Beat the Drum", will be presented February 15, 2010. She continued by advising that Commissioners can go to the website to see some of the activities CAMEO has planned.

LIAISON UPDATES – GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE:

Commissioner Kohen announced that the G/SA changed the name of their group to Pride Alliance Columbus.

Commissioner Kohen reported that the group was looking for advice on getting changes made to the local ordinance. Director Tinsley responded to their invitation to attend their recent meeting and provide her recommendations on how the group should best proceed. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Kohen advised that after the Director departed, the group voted unanimously to follow the recommendations of Director Tinsley.

OTHER BUSINESS – LAWS AWARD & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEES CREATION:

Due to the lack of a quorum, Vice chairperson McClendon appointed Commissioners Lewis, Rallapalli and Pegram to the nominations sub-committee. He advised that he would appoint the Laws Award sub-committee and advise.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned.